Dan Mitchell's Blog Continues

Dan Mitchell's blog about UCLA and UC. The original goes back to 2009 at uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com. Daniel J.B. Mitchell is a Professor-Emeritus in the Anderson and Luskin Schools at UCLA.

Thursday, August 6, 2026

ET Phone Home Because Can't Read

UCLA Study: Kids who own cellphones have poorer reading comprehension scores than those who don't, researchers find

Holly Ober, July 27, 2026 UCLA News Release

Key takeaways

- The widespread concern about the effect of cellphones on reading comprehension in elementary school children has led to surprisingly little experimental research.
- New research by UCLA psychologists found a statistically significant relationship between owning a cellphone and lower reading scores — children who owned cellphones had poorer reading comprehension than those who did not.

Archive

August 2026 (27)
July 2026 (44)

Labels

- academic freedom
- admissions
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- In fact, simply owning a phone correlated with worse reading comprehension, whether or not the phone was brought to school.

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School cellphone bans might seem like a good way to improve learning for elementary school children, but new research published in Behavioral Sciences shows that simply owning a cellphone correlates with worse reading comprehension. Whether a child brings the phone to school or not made no difference on the same metric, the team of UCLA psychologists and researchers found.

"We found that there's no age at which you can give a child a phone that's better or worse for reading comprehension, so it's just having a phone at all," said lead author and UCLA psychology professor Patricia Greenfield. "That's true in third grade, and it's true in sixth grade."

The study came about as researchers sought to answer the question: Do cellphones interfere with the concentration required to perform well on academic tests? They focused on determining whether the acquisition of a phone was negatively related to reading comprehension performance on tests for third and sixth graders.

The widespread concern about the effect of cellphones on reading in elementary school children has led to surprisingly little experimental research. The authors note only two previous studies in elementary school children. One showed that texting benefits the skill of grasping meaning; the other showed texting to be a negative influence on basic reading mechanics at the letter and word level.

To conduct the new study, researchers obtained approval to test children's reading comprehension with and without phones on a group of culturally and linguistically diverse children in Antelope Valley public schools and Coptic Church schools in Los Angeles. County. Phones were normally allowed in both types of settings.

The children — some who owned a phone and others who did not — read short passages. Some children had a phone with them at school, while others did not. Researchers then tested them on what they understood about each passage. Students also filled out a survey about their cellphone ownership and use.

The researchers found a statistically significant relationship between owning a personal cellphone and lower reading scores — children who owned cellphones had poorer comprehension than those who did not. This negative relationship between phone ownership and reading scores held for students who spoke English at home and those who did not. Testing for distraction from phone notifications was not possible because the students received almost no notifications during the experiments. Furthermore, there was no difference in reading comprehension when phones were on desks or out of sight. The reported age at which a child acquired their first phone did not correlate with reading comprehension skill.

"The children who brought their phones to school had the same reading scores as children who did not have phones at school that day. So, it's ownership of a phone, not the immediate presence of one, that correlates with poorer reading comprehension at the elementary school level," said Greenfield.

The study found some good news for students who do not speak English at home. For students from non-English-speaking homes who had their own phone, reading comprehension was significantly better the earlier they started using their phone to text.

"If you have a phone and if you're from a family where English is not spoken at home, it's better for reading comprehension to start texting earlier rather than later," said Greenfield. "In fact, when students from Arabic- or Spanish-speaking homes began to text in second or third grade, by sixth grade they had reading comprehension scores similar to their peers who still did not have phones."

Although results suggest no academic effect of school bans through sixth grade, cell phone bans in the elementary grades should improve children's social skills and relationships by increasing in-person interaction with peers and teachers; this is an important area for future research.

Postgraduate research assistant Marola Hanna, doctoral student Rocio Burgos-Calvillo, and assistant research professor Laura Rhinehart, all of whom are at UCLA, are co-authors of the paper.

A grant from the Flora Family Foundation supported the study.

Source: https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/owning-a-cell-phone-associated-with-poorer-reading-comprehension-schoolchildren.

at August 06, 2026 No comments:

- transportation
- tuition
- U of Chicago
- U of Colorado
- U of Maryland
- U of Northern Colorado
- UC
- UC budget crisis
- UC Regents
- uc retirement
- UC-Berkeley
- UC-Davis
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- UCLA
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- ucrp
- University Club
- West Point
- Western U of Health Sciences
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Report Abuse

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Labels: UCLA

New Housing and Hospitality AVC

From the Daily Bruin: *UCLA appointed a new associate vice chancellor for housing and hospitality, Administrative Vice Chancellor Michael Beck announced Monday. Sarah Dundish, the director of administration and chief of staff for UCLA Housing and Hospitality, assume[d] the position Wednesday...*

The department manages UCLA's student housing, dining services, university apartments, hotels and conference facilities. Housing and Hospitality employs more than 2,600 people and serves more than 25,000 students, faculty, staff and guests... Dundish – a UCLA alumnus – will take on the role ahead of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. UCLA's residential and dining facilities will serve as the Olympic Village for the games. About 78% of campus housing will be used to house athletes from mid-June to mid-September 2028...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/08/03/ucla-appoints-new-housing-hospitality-associate-vice-chancellor.

Note that Housing and Hospitality now has responsibility for operations of the University Club (former Faculty Club).

at August 06, 2026 No comments:

Labels: faculty center, UCLA, University Club

Straws in the Wind - Part 425 (Open Letter)

From the NY Times: *The Trump administration is making another push to persuade university leaders to address policies that it says have eroded trust with the American public, sending an open letter on Monday to college leaders asking them to respond to concerns over academic standards, admissions procedures and tuition costs. The letter, signed by Education Secretary Linda McMahon, is a significant departure from an attempt last year to incentivize universities with a so-called compact that dangled easier access to research funding for schools that embraced the administration's agenda. That proposal was widely rejected.*

...University presidents and governing boards are [now being] asked to address seven subjects — including free speech, foreign influence, artificial intelligence and academic rigor — and post the statements prominently on their websites. Ms. McMahon's letter, which does not include any funding threats, suggests that changes will improve academia's reputation among American parents and students. "The dilution of academic standards, opaque admissions policies and a domineering monoculture have badly eroded public trust," she wrote, adding that "only full candor and transparency can begin to strengthen the bonds between higher education and the American people."

It was not immediately clear how the nation's thousands of colleges and universities would respond to Ms. McMahon's letter. But Ted Mitchell, the president of the American Council on Education, which was not involved in talks with the government before the letter's release, said he regarded the missive as "a tentative handshake" between the administration and academic institutions. He predicted a significant response. "For many institutions, this is kind of a no-brainer

— it's a fill-in-the-blanks kind of thing if they want to do it," said Dr. Mitchell, who noted that many of the topics Ms. McMahon asked schools to discuss had already been subjects of immense debate among education leaders...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/03/us/trump-mcmahon-colleges-letter.html.

at August 06, 2026 No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, politics

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

A court decision opened the door, but...

The issue of UC hiring (or not hiring) undocumented students keeps coming up in public comments at Regents meetings. The next open Regents meetings are in mid-September. Whether the issue will be on the agenda is unknown.

From the Daily Bruin: *The California Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal in the case Umaña Muñoz v. Regents of the University of California in October 2025, letting stand the court of appeals' ruling that the University cannot bar undocumented students from holding on-campus jobs and that the UC's current hiring policies discriminate based on immigration status. However, more than eight months later, immigrant rights advocates said the UC has not taken action to comply with the ruling...*

A UC Office of the President spokesperson said in an emailed statement that... the court's decision doesn't change current hiring practices or mandate the UC to hire undocumented students, the spokesperson added. ...UC... previously argued during the court case that its hiring policies aim to comply with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, a federal law that makes it illegal for employers to hire undocumented people. A majority of regents said not complying would risk billions of dollars in federal research grants...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/08/02/undocumented-students-push-for-uc-job-opportunities-citing-california-court-ruling.

Note: The case can be found at:

https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/ca-court-of-appeal/117570869.html.

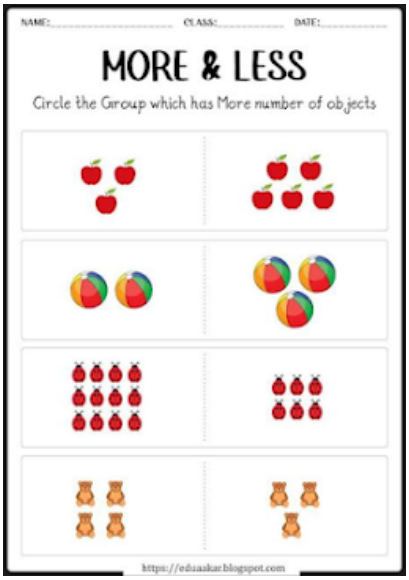
at August 05, 2026 No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC, UC Regents

More or Less?

From the Daily Californian: *Twenty-three UC and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory projects were among those announced under the Department of Energy's Genesis Mission, a national initiative towards "AI-driven scientific discovery." The DOE is committing more than $5 billion to the mission, which spans national laboratories, academia and industry. Genesis Mission-funded projects will "enable researchers to … refine new approaches to accelerating scientific discovery and breakthroughs," according to Berkeley Lab spokesperson Jonathan Carter. Berkeley Lab*

contributions to the Genesis Mission will integrate AI with research into grid infrastructure, nuclear energy and more.



However, for some researchers, this funding comes at an odd time given cuts to other grants. In May, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled to allow generic grant terminations by the EPA, NEH and NSF in the ongoing Thakur v. Trump lawsuit filed on behalf of UC researchers. Five days before the funding announcement, a district court ruled against President Donald Trump's administration for canceling active research grants in a separate lawsuit...

The DOE's emphasis on AI funding comes as part of the broader administration's "AI action plan," which cites a global race for AI development, and a mission to reap economic and military benefits. Last week, science and technology advisor Michael Kratsios released a report proposing a reduction in total university research funding alongside the push for increased AI funding. Of the 278 projects awarded funding in the Genesis Mission, 151 are led by universities and 87 by national laboratories...

Full story at https://www.dailycal.org/news/campus/research-and-ideas/uc-berkeley-affiliated-ai-research-receives-funding-from-doe-despite-other-trump-funding-cuts/article_e729ccaa-62e5-411e-a099-45e2efff7896.html.

at August 05, 2026 No comments:

Labels: politics, UC-Berkeley

Straws in the Wind - Part 424

From the California Post: *The Cornell University student who declared he's "not interested in working for a Jew" got tossed from his parents' $1.75 million home in Virginia — and is now sniveling online for cash. Austin Franco, who went viral for declining a job interview at NYC startup VryfID for antisemitic reasons, took to X on Wednesday, declaring, "My parents are kicking me out." But the hater did get some good news the next day, as Cornell revealed to The Post that, unlike his disappointed parents, Alexander and Diana, the liberal upstate college won't kick him to the curb.*

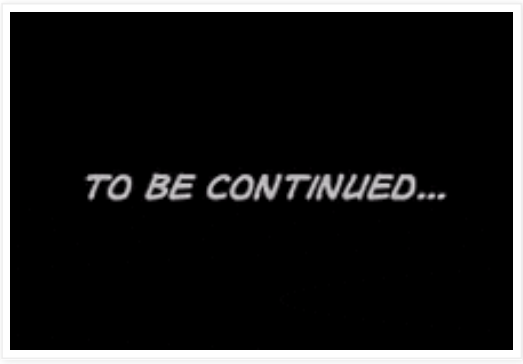
The rising junior created a GiveSendGo campaign, which has already amassed more than $8,000 from twisted supporters — on top of the roughly $25,000 raised in a separate fundraiser. "I will be kicked out of my home on August 1st. Any support you can provide would be greatly appreciated, as would any advice," the 19-year-old whined... "I do not regret anything I have done. If I were to die today, I would at least know that I did so believing in myself. Thank you, and may God be with you." ...

Full story at https://nypost.com/2026/08/01/us-news/antisemitic-cornell-student-austin-franco-begs-for-cash-after-parent-boot/.

at August 05, 2026 No comments:

Labels: Cornell, diversity

Dan Mitchell's Blog Continues



This blog continues Dan Mitchell's blog concerning UCLA and UC originally at:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/

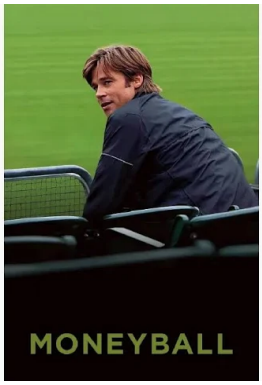
starting July 23, 2026.

at August 05, 2026 No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Moneyball



From UCLA Athletics: *UCLA Athletics announced today that it received more than $41 million in private philanthropic support from more than 6,500 donors during fiscal year 2025-26. The year's momentum represents an 80.6% increase in fundraising over the past two years. "The Bruin family has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to our student-athletes by helping us provide an elite experience both on and off the field," UCLA's Alice and Nahum Lainer Family Director of Athletics Martin Jarmond said...*

The year was highlighted by several transformational gifts, including a $10 million commitment from Angelo M. Mazzone III to establish the naming endowment for the UCLA Head Football Coach position. UCLA Athletics also received multiple seven-figure gifts, reflecting significant donor confidence in the future of UCLA Athletics...

Full release at https://uclabruins.com/news/2026/07/27/ucla-athletics-celebrates-strong-year-of-philanthropic-support.

at August 04, 2026 No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 423

From the Chronicle of Higher Education: *In its latest push to overhaul federal research funding, the White House... stated its intention to divert research grants away from universities and toward "individual researchers." The 123-page report, "Science: A New Golden Age," crystallizes the Trump administration's vision for the American scientific enterprise, breaking away from the decades-old university research system in favor of private companies, independent projects, and artificial intelligence-driven research...**

Researchers who spoke to The Chronicle, however, are more than skeptical that the shift would accelerate scientific discovery. They're also unconvinced that the White House's vision for science aligns with the realities and needs of American researchers... Many of the administrative burdens alluded to in the report, researchers said, are imposed by the federal government itself, not universities. Researchers have long complained of growing bureaucratic burdens tied to federal grant regulations, with 66 percent of new federal research regulations having been introduced within the past decade. Universities can lessen that burden by providing administrative staff to help cut through red tape, while private ventures and "individual" researchers might have less capacity to properly document that they're following regulations...

"The reason why scientists are concentrated at institutions is because the labs that they use are expensive," [Melinda] Rostal, [an epidemiologist and a member of the organization Defend Public Health,] said. "All that infrastructure is needed by the researchers." ...

Full story at https://www.chronicle.com/article/why-scientists-hate-trumps-new-plan-to-revamp-research-funding.

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Report at https://www.whitehouse.gov/science/.

at August 04, 2026 No comments:

Labels: politics

On or Off?

From the Sacramento Bee: *A sudden $12 million federal funding cut last year forced a UC Davis transportation research center and its partners to halt dozens of projects, disrupt student research and scramble for replacement money — setting off a legal fight that has left the center's future uncertain more than a year later. The National Center for Sustainable Transportation quickly suspended research already underway and delayed projects scheduled to begin.*

"Except for the Great Recession we haven't had anything like this," said Fraser Shilling, whose project modeling how traffic light and sound affects nearby wildlife was halted. "It was kind of like an administration-imposed recession on academia."

The center was one of multiple university programs affected when the Trump administration canceled $54 million in previously awarded grants for programs that used "woke" terms in their applications, according to a U.S. Department of Transportation news release. The cut began a more than yearlong scramble to rearrange projects, seek private donations and fight for the funding in federal court as part of Thakur v. Trump, said center director Susan Handy. Although a judge ordered the funding restored late last year, the center's work and employees have remained in flux as the lawsuit continues and the possibility remains that the money could disappear again...

Full story at https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article316689358.html.

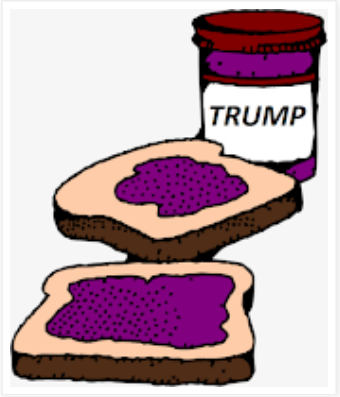
at August 04, 2026 No comments:

Labels: politics, transportation, UC-Davis

Possible Trump Jam on the 405 Today

There could be problems on the 405 south of UCLA today due to a presidential motorcade.

From Patch: *President Donald Trump is scheduled to make a rare visit to Los Angeles County on Tuesday, speaking at a Republican National Committee dinner at the Trump National Golf Club in Rancho Palos Verdes...*



Although no official arrival plans have been announced, presidential visits to Southern California often involve Air Force One landing at Los Angeles International Airport before the president continues by helicopter or motorcade. Officials have not said whether that will be the case Tuesday. No traffic advisories had been issued Monday by the California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department or other local agencies as they don't announce the president's route in advance for security purposes. Residents planning to travel Tuesday, particularly near Los Angeles International Airport, the Harbor area or the Palos Verdes Peninsula, may want to allow extra time and check traffic conditions before heading out. Previous presidential visits to the Los Angeles area have resulted in temporary freeway closures, rolling traffic holds and road closures along motorcade routes, sometimes with little advance notice...

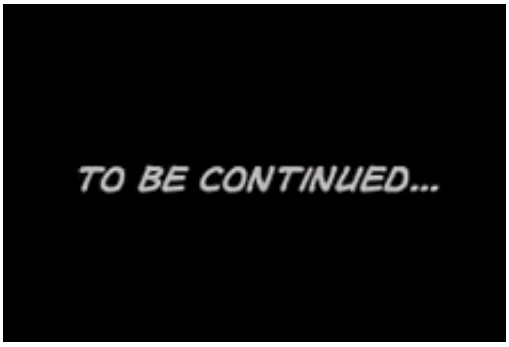
Full story at https://patch.com/california/palosverdes/trump-make-rare-trip-la-county-give-rnc-speech-his-golf-course.

Note: This could have been a special problem for UCLA if someone had found a use for its $80 million Palos Verdes campus acquisition. But so far nobody has.

at August 04, 2026 No comments:

Labels: traffic, transportation, UCLA

Dan Mitchell's Blog Continues



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starting July 23, 2026.

at August 04, 2026 No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Monday, August 3, 2026

If it's from the Big Ten, UCLA went along

Note: Nothing in the description below suggests that college athletes had any say in this deal.

JOINT STATEMENT
FROM THE BIG TEN & SEC PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS
The Big Ten Conference and Southeastern Conference support the Protect College Sports Act as currently drafted, following detailed and productive negotiations with Senators Cruz, Cantwell and Schmitt and their respective staffs.
We appreciate the substantial work that has gone into this effort.
BIG
SEC

From Yahoo Sports: *The Big Ten and SEC have struck a deal with federal lawmakers over legislation to regulate the college sports industry. Each of the league's presidents and chancellors voted Friday evening to swing their support behind the Protect College Sports Act in a stunning and about-face development that thrusts the legislation forward. The two conferences announced the deal via a joint statement [last] Friday night.*

The SEC and Big Ten's support is central to the bill's passage... And there was urgency to hold a vote vote [this] week before lawmakers leave for a monthlong recess... While the bill would still need to pass the House of Representatives, Senate ratification would stand as one of the most historic moves in college sports history and a victorious moment for the NCAA's seven-year lobbying effort for a congressional bill.

The key components of the bill would grant the NCAA and conferences a limited antitrust exemption to re-implement the one-time transfer exception, standardize a five-year eligibility policy, ban professional athletes from returning to college, establish an agent registry and maximum fee (5%) and, as noted above, create a more strict athlete revenue-share cap.

The revenue-share cap, for weeks now, has been at the center of the negotiations between conference officials and co-authors of the bill itself, Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Schmitt, and their staffs. Opposed to collective bargaining and employment, college sports leaders are working to establish a harder cap like the NFL as opposed to the current state of affairs, where schools are exceeding the $21.3 million cap, in some cases, by triple that figure, by redirecting sponsorship and apparel cash from the athletic department to their roster. According to the bill, all athlete deals with university-contracted businesses (associated entities), such as multimedia rights partners, corporate sponsors and apparel brands, would be included in a school's revenue-share payments and count against the cap...

Full story at https://sports.yahoo.com/college-football/article/sec-big-ten-vote-to-support-congressional-college-sports-bill-after-mad-scramble-001809916.html.

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Joint statement above at https://x.com/SEC/status/2083371653153566937.

at August 03, 2026 No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Suggestions

The systemwide Academic Council reviewed a policy guide for UCPD known as the "Gold Book" and proposed changes.* As part of the process, comments were solicited from campus Senates and two systemwide committees. As might be expected, a summarizing of the resulting comments ends up as a shopping list of concerns - a kind of data dump of 144(!) pages - along with a statement that some people had "no objection" to what was proposed. However, the Council did make some specific recommendations. Below, yours truly has distilled the recommendations that are explicitly attributed to the Council.

The full letter from the Council chair with attached documents can be found at:

https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/council-chair-to-systemwide-community-safety-goldbook.pdf.

As requested, I distributed for systemwide Academic Senate review the proposed revisions to Systemwide Policies Applying to the University of California Police Department, commonly known as the "Gold Book." Nine Senate divisions and two systemwide Senate committees (UCODE and UCFW) submitted comments. These were discussed at the Academic Council's July 22, 2026 meeting, and the compiled feedback is attached for your reference. The responses reflected a range of views. Some reviewers expressed no objection or found the revisions generally appropriate, while others recommended substantial revisions before the policies are finalized. After considering the comments, the Academic Council identified several overarching concerns and recommendations, summarized below.

Review Materials and Consultation Process

Many reviewers found the materials difficult to evaluate because it was not always clear which policies were new, which had been substantially revised, and which included only technical or legally required updates. The Academic Council recommends that future reviews include an executive summary identifying new policies, major substantive revisions, and technical or legally required changes, along with an explanation of the reasons for significant revisions...

Distinctive Nature of Policing in a University Environment

The Council believes that policies governing UCPD should be tailored to the mission and setting of a public university rather than relying primarily on language designed for municipal law enforcement agencies. The Council recommends that the Gold Book affirm UCPD's role in helping the University respect and protect academic freedom, civil liberties, and expressive activity and place greater emphasis on community engagement and relationship-building...

De-escalation and Use of Force

...The Council recommends making de-escalation and the least intrusive reasonable means the default whenever circumstances permit, with force used only when necessary...

Expressive Activity and Academic Freedom

...The Council recommends clearer standards for distinguishing protected conduct and peaceful noncompliance from behavior that presents an imminent safety threat...

Governance, Oversight, and Transparency

The Council recommends stronger independent and community-based oversight of UCPD, with meaningful participation by UC faculty, students, staff, and other campus constituents...

Surveillance, Privacy, and Information Collection

(Various concerns are attributed to "several reviewers," but it is unclear from the text whether the Council had specific recommendations.)

Equity, Disability, and Mental Health Response

The Council recommends greater attention to implicit and explicit bias, discrimination, cultural awareness, disability, neurodiversity, and mental health crises...

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*A 2010 edition of the Gold Book can be found at:

https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000382/PoliceProceduresManual. The Council apparently saw a later version with proposed changes. It is unclear exactly what the Council was given.

Straws in the Wind - Part 422

From Inside Higher Ed: *English professor Vinita Prabhakar is suing South Florida State College after she was abruptly fired for teaching a story the college president deemed "political," according to a complaint filed Wednesday in Florida district court. Prabhakar assigned her freshman English students "Bettering Myself," an award-winning story by Ottessa Moshfegh that centers on a Catholic school math teacher who drinks to excess and talks about sex with her students. One of her students told Prabhakar the story made them "a bit uncomfortable" ...*

Following several days of back-and-forth with other administrators about the assignment, Prabhakar met with South Florida State President Fred Hawkins on Feb. 11. During the meeting, Hawkins said "he would not want his own college-aged daughter reading" the story, and that he didn't "ever want to see this story again," the complaint states. He also told Prabhakar he'd been in contact "with Tallahassee" and the Board of Trustees about the matter... A day later, college officials removed Prabhakar from the classroom and told her that her contract would not be renewed... Prabhakar joins a growing list of professors who have sued their institutions after being fired, alleging First Amendment violations...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/07/31/professor-fired-teaching-political-story-sues-college.

Lawsuit at https://www.fire.org/research-learn/complaint-prabhakar-v-hawkins-et-al.

at August 03, 2026 No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, politics, South Florida State College

Moving Apart

From SFGATE: *A record number of California students were offered admission to the University of California this fall, but the gains weren't spread evenly across the system, with some campuses defying the trend, new preliminary data shows. The overall fall 2026 California student admission rate for the UC's nine undergraduate campuses was 78%, compared with 77% the previous year. The system accepted a total of 153,272 first-year students, both in-state and out-of-state students, the UC said.*

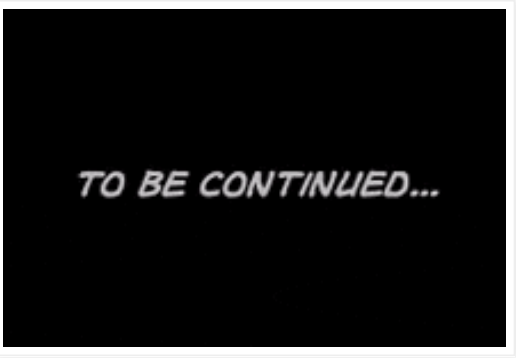
One of the most competitive campuses, UC Berkeley, however, didn't follow the system's upward trend, admitting approximately 4% fewer first-year California students than the year before. The Bay Area campus offered admission to 9,445 such students for the fall, compared with 9,852 in 2025, according to UC data... Meanwhile, UC Berkeley's biggest rival, UCLA, moved in the opposite direction, admitting more California students than last year. The campus admitted 9,109 California resident students this fall compared with 8,589 in fall 2025, the data shows...

Full story at https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/admissions-uc-data-2026-22368094.php.

at August 03, 2026 No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC-Berkeley

Dan Mitchell's Blog Continues



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starting July 23, 2026.

at August 03, 2026 No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Sunday, August 2, 2026

Yesterday's COLA

If you are receiving a UC pension that began before July 1, you should have received a 2% COLA (cost of living adjustment) increase as of yesterday. Yes, inflation is running above 2%, but the COLA formula does not provide complete protection against inflation above 2%.

The University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) COLA formula matches the annual increase in the California Consumer Price Index (CPI) up to 2%, plus 75% of the CPI increase exceeding 4%, up to a maximum adjustment of 6%.

at August 02, 2026 No comments:

Labels: pension, pensions, ucrp

Straws in the Wind - Part 421

From the Washington Post: *A West Point professor and his colleagues will remain ungagged for now, after the military academy declined to appeal a judge's ruling that barred the school from restricting professors' public comments. The West Point policy, adopted early last year, says no professor can give a speech, publish a paper or speak on a podcast without seeking approval from their department head. School leadership announced it a month after President Donald Trump issued an executive order forbidding military service academies from "promoting, advancing or otherwise inculcating" ideas deemed "un-American" or "divisive." In late 2025, West Point's longest-serving law professor, Tim Bakken, sued the academy in federal court over the policy...*

West Point sought to dismiss the suit. Last month, federal judge Cathy Seibel, a President George W. Bush nominee, issued an interim ruling saying West Point cannot enforce the policy for civilian professors while Bakken's case proceeds. Seibel also barred West Point from preventing Bakken from sharing his personal opinions with students. The academy had until Monday to appeal her ruling, but it did not do so...

Full story at https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2026/07/29/west-point-professors-free-comment-publicly-school-declines-appeal-ruling/.

at August 02, 2026 No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, politics, West Point

Stonegarden

From CalMatters: ...*Operation Stonegarden, a grant managed by the Department of Homeland Security, allocates an average of $11 million each year for California law enforcement agencies to work with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and its subagency Border Patrol on border security missions. Dozens of police forces throughout the state receive the grant, including campus police at UC San Diego, a recipient since around 2012.*

On Feb. 10, a CalMatters article explained how UC San Diego police used the grant to patrol sections of the coastline near campus, which quickly set off an uproar among students who felt it placed undocumented and international students at risk. By Feb. 26, after students emailed complaints and threatened to hold a public rally, student Aryan Dixit said the campus police chief, Lamine Secka, agreed to leave the grant program in a one-on-one meeting.

...University vice chancellor, Niraj Dangoria, stated in [an] email that university police have not participated in Stonegarden activities since 2024, which the university's Communications team affirmed. The 2024 funding agreement states operations would last from April 2025 to February 2027...

Full story at https://calmatters.org/education/2026/07/uc-san-diego-homeland-security-border-patrol-students-protest/.

at August 02, 2026 No comments:

Labels: diversity, UC-San Diego

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 186

From the Boston Globe: *Researchers and teachers represented by the Harvard Academic Workers union (HAW-UAW) have voted to authorize a strike over stalled contract negotiations with administrators at the Ivy League university, according to a statement from the union. The vote, taken Friday [July 23], came after 43 bargaining sessions in which the union claimed its needs were not met, and allows for the union's bargaining committee to implement a strike if they feel as though negotiations continue to stall, said union member Maggie Doherty, who is a lecturer in Harvard's English department. The union, which was formed in April 2024, represents about 2,500 non-tenure track researchers and teachers across Harvard, said Doherty.*

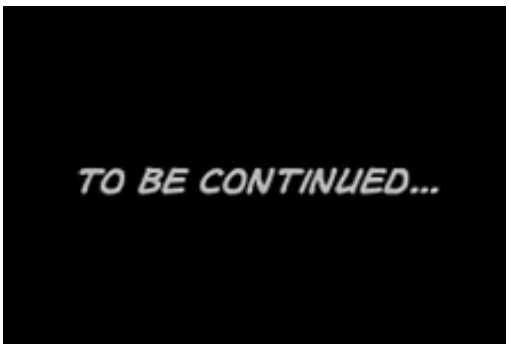
The union claims that the Harvard administration has refused to address their needs for "fair pay, job security and workload protections, better protection for non-US citizen workers, real recourse for discrimination and harassment, and the right to a strong union," the statement said. ...There has not yet been any response from the Harvard administration to the Strike Authorization Vote (SAV) result yet... A spokesperson for Harvard could not immediately be reached for comment by the Globe...

Full story at https://www.bostonglobe.com/2026/07/27/metro/harvard-researchers-teachers-strike/.

at August 02, 2026 No comments:

Labels: Harvard, strikes

Dan Mitchell's Blog Continues



This blog continues Dan Mitchell's blog concerning UCLA and UC originally at:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/

starting July 23, 2026.

at August 02, 2026 No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Saturday, August 1, 2026

More Stay Away from Wilshire

Closure of Eastbound Lanes on Wilshire Bl

Summary

Construction for the Westwood/UCLA Station continues July 25 to August 31.

Work includes drilling for the elevator casing at the southeast entrance.

Eastbound Wilshire Bl will be closed between Gayley Av and Westwood Bl.

Schedule

- Through August 31
- Saturday and Sunday: 6 am to 3 pm
- Monday to Friday: 9 pm to 6 am

Traffic Control

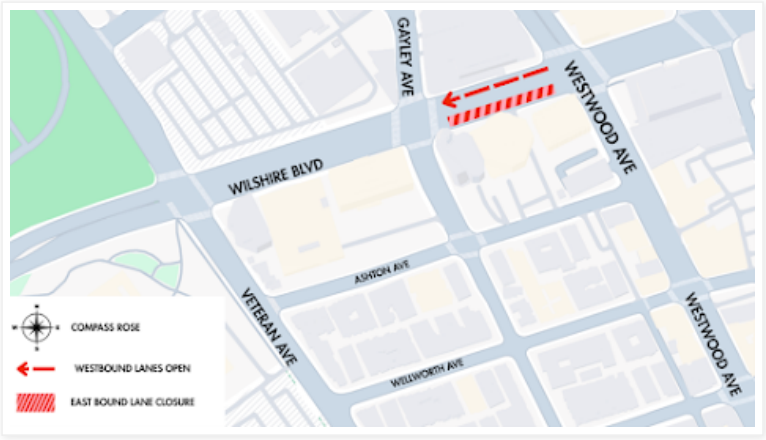
- All westbound lanes will remain open.
- **Eastbound traffic will be diverted to Santa Monica Bl via Sepulveda Bl or Veteran Av and then back to Wilshire Bl via Westwood Bl.**

Pedestrian and Business Access

- Sidewalk closures will be in place in the immediate work area; pedestrians should follow posted detour signage.

Noteworthy

- All work has received necessary permits and approvals.
- Access for emergency responders will be maintained at all times.
- Parking restrictions will be enforced in the work zone.
- Construction schedules are subject to change.
- **24/7 Hotline:** 213-922-6934



Source: https://cloud.sfmc.metro.net/Closure_Eastboundlanes.

Labels: traffic, UCLA

I Never Promised You a Rose Bowl? - Part 19 (See you in September)

From Pasadena Now: *Lawyers for UCLA and the city will return to court Sept. 2 to resume a case management conference in the lawsuit the city and the Rose Bowl Operating Company filed to keep UCLA football at the historic stadium. According to the lawsuit, UCLA sought to leave the Rose Bowl and move its home football games to SoFi Stadium in Inglewood despite a lease that runs through 2044.*

...For the city, the stakes extend beyond football. The Rose Bowl is owned by the city, and officials have said taxpayers funded more than $150 million in stadium renovations and refinanced approximately $130 million in bonds tied to capital improvements. The lawsuit alleges UCLA's departure could cost the city and its residents more than $1 billion in damages...

The city argues the lease, signed in 2010 and amended in 2014, contains no early termination clause and requires the Bruins to play their home football games at the Rose Bowl through June 30, 2044. The agreement also prohibits UCLA from playing home games at another venue in Los Angeles or Orange counties...

Full story at https://pasadenanow.com/main/ucla-city-to-return-to-court-sept-2-in-rose-bowl-lease-dispute.

at August 01, 2026 No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

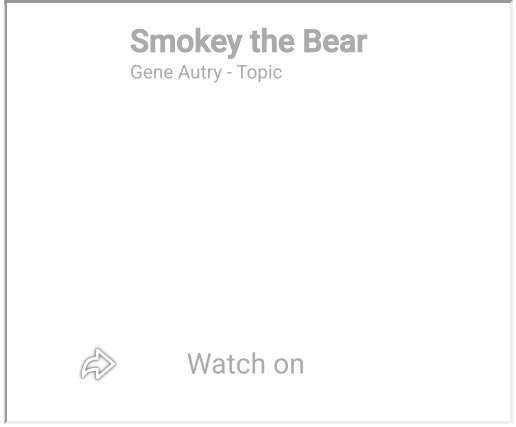
Straws in the Wind - Part 420 (Bear With Us)

From the Cornell Daily Sun: *Cornell has updated its Community Living Standards to include a clause banning the processing of wild animals in communal kitchens. The update follows a September incident in which students skinned and butchered a legally hunted bear in a shared kitchen in Ganędagǫ: Hall, a residence hall on North Campus. A University spokesperson confirmed that the update is a response to the Ganędagǫ: Hall incident...*

On Sept. 6, two students hunted and killed an adult black bear in the Department of Environmental Conservation's Region 4, approximately two hours from campus, before bringing it back to Ganędagǫ: Hall to process it. Aaron Chin '27, one of the bear skinners who revealed himself on the MeatEater Podcast, explained on the podcast that they intended to process the bear at a friend's place, but they ran into an "emergency" and took it to the dormitory kitchen, not wanting to let the meat spoil. The skinning was met with online backlash on Reddit and Sidechat, an anonymous social media platform, as images circulated showing the bear's remains on the shared kitchen table and meat stored in ziploc bags in the dorm's communal fridge...

Full story at https://www.cornellsun.com/article/2026/07/ytg8jgs7qs3k.

So, was the smoke he was smelling coming from the kitchen?



Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNdFs0wRxDg.

at August 01, 2026 No comments:

Labels: Cornell

Yale Deal - Part 9

From the Yale Daily News: *University President Maurie McInnis has engaged in private conversations with student leaders, as well as the faculty senate chair, about Yale's attempts to settle with the Trump administration — a venture that has faced widespread backlash from students, faculty and alumni. Michael Farina, the chair of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Senate, wrote in [an] email to the News that he has spoken with McInnis about the potential settlement and felt optimistic.*

"From our conversations, President McInnis' words and actions are clearly heartfelt and forthright, and she has given us no reason to doubt her absolute sincerity in defending our academic freedom, the university, our faculty, and our students," he wrote. "She is working to safeguard both Yale's autonomy and our ability to accept the students of our choice. I am confident she will succeed in protecting both."

...Four student leaders... met with McInnis... "In our meeting, we advocated for student concerns and shared them with President McInnis. We also sought clarity on what protecting students' rights in this DOJ probe should look like," the student leaders wrote in a joint... statement... that they plan to release more information about the meeting and their thoughts on it at a later date...

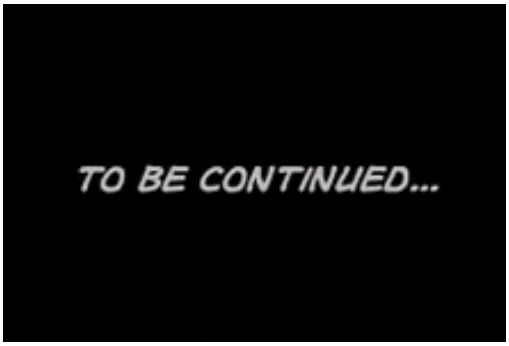
McInnis has refrained from making public comment about the settlement with the exception of a July 13 email to the Yale community, in which she confirmed that the University is seeking a voluntary resolution to the Department of Justice's investigations into Yale admissions...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/in-private-talks-mcinnis-leaves-faculty-leader-assured-on-trump-deal.

at August 01, 2026 No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, admissions, diversity, Yale

Dan Mitchell's Blog Continues



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Dueling Memos at Davis

Technically jousting memos rather than dueling, but, hey, horses are involved. Or, since it's horses, should I have said "hay"...

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 181

From the Harvard Crimson : Harvard has ended its decadeslong relationship with O’Neill Athy and Casey, a boutique Washington, D.C. lobbying ...

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